

A short crest on back part of head. Gular pouch extending in a direct line from the lower mandible for about 3 inches upon the throat. Around the eye a bare space separated from the bill by a narrow line of white feathers. Scapulars, lower portion of greater wing-coverts, primaries, and secondaries, some feathers of the upper tail-coverts, and tail jet-black. Rest of plumage white, with a yellowish tint upon the breast. Gular pouch white, as are also the mandibles, the latter having a bluish tinge darkest at the tip, the cutting edges yellow; nail of mandible greenish yellow. Irides dark brown; orbits pale sulphur-yellow, bounded by a narrow ring of pale bluish grey.

Total length about 5 feet; upper mandible 18 inches in length along the culmen, its greatest width  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch; wing 25 inches; tail 10 inches; tarsus 5 inches; middle toe, without nail,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches; outer toe  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, inner 3 inches, hind toe  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

*Hab.* Australia, Van Diemen's Land.

This fine species is an inhabitant of Van Diemen's Land and the continent of Australia, in which countries it is very abundant. So numerous, indeed, is it on the inland waters, that Capt. Sturt states, as related by Mr. Gould, "that a channel of a river from 70 to 80 yards broad was literally covered with Pelicans, and that they were in such numbers upon the Darling as to be quite dazzling to the eye."

The Australian Pelican cannot easily be confounded with any other species, its black wing-coverts and tail serving to distinguish it from its fellows.

The nest, according to Mr. Gould, is "a large structure of sticks and grassy herbage, placed just above high-water mark; the eggs are generally two in number, of a dirty yellowish white,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches long by  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches broad."

This species appears to be generally distributed throughout Australia, although it is gradually retiring before the advances of civilization.

## 8. Description of a new Species of Mexican Wren. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

(Plate XLV.)

When looking through the fine series of American birds in the Royal Zoological Museum of Berlin last summer, I found an example of a species of Wren from Mexico, which was quite new to me, and which, although long since provided with a MS. name, appeared to be undescribed. Dr. Peters, with his wonted liberality, upon my pointing this out to him, immediately offered me the loan of the specimen for examination and description, if new; and as, after carefully comparing it with other species known to me, I find my anticipations verified, I propose to characterize the species under the specific name already bestowed upon it in the Berlin Museum.

THRYOTHORUS NISORIUS, sp. nov. (Plate XLV.)

*Troglodytes nisorius*, Licht. in Mus. Berol.; *ej. Nomencl.* p. 34.

*Supra læte rufus, alis caudaque nigro regulariter transfasciatis: superciliis elongatis albis: lateribus capitis albis nigricante variegatis: subtus albus, nigro omnino transvittatus, fere sicut in Sylvia nisorio: tectricibus subalaribus albo nigroque variegatis: rostro et pedibus corneis: long. tota 5·5, ala 2·7, caudæ 2·2, tarsi 0·85 poll. Angl.*

*Hab.* In Mexico, Real Arriba (Deppe).

*Mus.* Berolinensi.

*Obs.* Proximus *T. pleurosticto*, mihi, sed corpore subtus omnino transfasciato diversus.

This little Wren was one of the many novelties discovered by Herr Deppe and Schiede during their travels in Mexico. In 1830 a sale-list of the duplicate specimens of these travellers was printed at Berlin by W. Deppe, which contained very short descriptions of some of the new species by the late Prof. Lichtenstein\*. At the close of the list is announced the approaching publication of a 'Prodromus Faunæ Mexicanæ' by the latter zoologist, which promise, however, was never redeemed.

This tract is now very scarce, and I have never seen the original, although I have made repeated inquiries after it at Berlin and elsewhere. It has, however, been lately reprinted by Dr. Cabanis in his 'Journal für Ornithologie' †. Dr. Cabanis has likewise promised us a critique on the new species described in it according to the typical specimens of the Berlin Museum, which I hope will shortly appear, as it will be of great advantage to the students of Mexican Ornithology. The characters given by Prof. Lichtenstein are, in many cases, so short that without some such assistance it is impossible to to recognize the "new species" with certainty.

9. Remarks on two Species of Mammals described from specimens recently living in the Society's Gardens. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

(Plate XLVI.)

1. MICO SERICEUS, Gray, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 256.

On March 21, 1868, Mr. Bartlett purchased for the Society, from a dealer in Liverpool, a living male specimen of a small Marmoset Monkey which was quite new to me. It was stated to have been obtained out of a vessel coming from Pará, and to be the only

\* Preis-Verzeichniss der Säugethiere, Vögel, Amphibien, Fische und Krebse, welche von den Herren Deppe und Schiede in Mexico gesammelt worden, und bei dem unterzeichneten Bevollmächtigten in Berlin gegen baare Zahlung in Preuss. Courant zu erhalten sind. Berlin, 1830.

† Journ. f. Orn. 1863, p. 54.